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PARTNERSHIP IN EQUITY

MONTANA VOCATIONAL EDUCATION EQUITY BULLETIN
Funded by the Perkins Vocational and Applied Technology Act
by Rebecca A. Bird, Gender Equity Coordinator

JANUARY / FEBRUARY 1994 NO. 28

WHAT IS "THINK PURPLE WEEK"?

Think Purple Week is a time of true **CELEBRATION!** We celebrate equity in education and in Montana. **Think Purple** is a week for all classes at all grade levels to focus on equity issues in subjects like math, home economics, science, auto mechanics, social studies, history, agriculture and technology. **Think Purple!**

Boys and girls, men and women, can work together to understand each other's viewpoints and needs, and learn to help one another in many ways. The issues of discrimination and how everyone is hurt by such behaviors can and should be discussed in school. **Think Purple!**

Classes can develop ways to decrease discrimination -- first in the school ,then in the home, the workplace, and in society in general. Students should be encouraged to think about how they would feel if they were victims of discrimination, and then discuss what they can do to eliminate discrimination that exists in their school and their community. Remember the four R"s -- reading, writing, arithmetic, and respect. **Think Purple!**

In Montana, **Think Purple Week 1994** is also the same time as **Vocational Education Week!** This is double cause to celebrate. As vocational educators and students ***commit*** to the principles of equity, ***integrate*** equity into their programs, and ***promote*** the importance of equity to Montana, and the nation, we are fast on the way to ensuring that in Montana we

THINK PURPLE!!!

LAST CHANCE FOR EQUITY CREDIT...

"Our Children In Hostile Hallways"
FEBRUARY 19, 1994
BILLINGS, MONTANA

This conference, sponsored by a variety of Billings area organizations, is an option for those of you still needing Carl Perkins Equity Credit.

For information on registering call:

TREASURE TRAILS GIRLS SCOUT COUNCIL
259-2158
DAYCARE IS PROVIDED, call the council

For information on receiving Perkins Equity credit, contact the GEC, 444-6570

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FEBRUARY 13-19, 1994

HOW ABOUT A WARM WELCOME FOR KATHY BRAMER...

Greetings! I am excited to have the opportunity of serving you as OPI's new Gender Equity Specialist.

My background includes 20 years of consulting and training with a variety of nonprofit groups on organizational development, structure, team-building, and crisis intervention. For the last four years, I have worked for the Montana Department of Labor and Industry, where I managed the dislocated worker program for the federal Job Training Partnership Act and administered the department's Quality Works program. In the latter position, I taught groups about individual and group empowerment, communication, and team-building skills.

My goal as OPI's gender Equity specialist is to carry on the good work that has been started here, focusing on such issues as preparing women and girls for the workforce; how gender issues affect career choices and placement; sexual harassment issues; and diversity in schools.

I will be looking forward to you, as the people in the field, to help me determine how best to serve your needs in gender equity issues. I look forward to meeting you and working with you. My door and phone lines are open ; please feel free to contact me! (444-1952 OR 2410)

GENDER EQUITY RESOURCES ARE AVAILABLE FROM:

GENDER EQUITY COORDINATOR'S RESOURCE LIBRARY, Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, 444-6570
GENDER EQUITY SPECIALIST'S RESOURCE LIBRARY, Office of Public Instruction
444-2410
GENDER EQUITY AUDIOVISUAL LIBRARY, WESTERN MONTANA COLLEGE
683-7541

EXPANDING YOUR HORIZONS 1994

Expanding Your Horizons in Science and Mathematics career conferences for middle and high school students are designed to:

*** increase interest in mathematics and science**
*** present information about career opportunities for women in math and science-related careers; and**
*** provide female role models of women who are working in non-traditional careers.**

1994 CONFERENCE SITES INCLUDE :

HELENA
Saturday, March 9, 1994
Carroll College
contact: Pat Reichert
444-2410

KALISPELL
Saturday, March 19, 1994
Flathead Valley Community College
contact: Kathy Hughes
756-3839

CORVALLIS
Wednesday, March 23, 1994
contact: Nilda Soto Bishop
961-3201

BUTTE
Saturday, March 26, 1994
Montana Tech
contact: Eletha Suttey
496-4125

BOZEMAN
Saturday. March 26, 1994
Montana State University
contact: Stacy Jovack
222-3407

MISSOULA
Friday, April 15, 1994
Hellgate Elementary School
contact: Cindy Babon
549-9835

BILLINGS
Saturday, April 23, 1994
Rocky Mountain College
contact: Nancy Downing
657-1050

SAMPLE PROCLAMATION

City councils, county commissions, school boards, and student councils can declare February 13-19, 1994 as

"THINK PURPLE WEEK!"

The following is a sample for your community, or organization:

WHEREAS, the future strength of our nation depends on the quality of human understanding and the full development of the potential of all people; and

WHEREAS, artificial and unconscious restrictions of gender limitations on the types of work and courses a person may choose inhibit full participation of females and males in the economy and in school; and

WHEREAS, faculty, counselors, teachers, administrators, and parents can help students consider unlimited career and course opportunities regardless of gender, symbolized by purple (the combination of pink and blue); and

WHEREAS, Montana's male and female students will need skills in preparation for and appreciation of diversity as they face the future;

We therefor designate the week of February 13-19, 1994, as **"THINK PURPLE WEEK!"** in

_____

to encourage the full development of females and males and their right to enjoy unlimited educational and employment opportunities.

Signed_____

Date_____

STATE CAPITOL NEWS...

On January 10, 1994, Governor Marc Racicot signed a proclamation designating February 13-19, 1994, as VOCATIONAL EDUCATION WEEK in Montana. Members of the Montana Council on Vocational Education, staff from the Office of Public Instruction and the Office of the Commissioner of Higher Education, and representatives form Montana Student vocation organizations were present.

The student organizations were given an opportunity to address to the Governor the importance of vocational education and their individual student groups. Those student groups were:

* Business Professionals of America
* DECA - Distributive Education Clubs of America
* FFA
* FHA / HERO - Future Homemakers of America / Home Economics Related Occuaptions
* VICA - Vocational Industrial Clubs of America
* TSA - Technology Students of America

"THINK PURPLE!!!"

- On January 20, 1994, the State Board of Education, consisting of the Board of Public Education and the Board of Regents, unanimously approved a joint resolution declaring their commitment to gender and multicultural equity awareness to ensure that education in Montana is both free of discrimination and affirming of the talents and abilities of each individual. This resolution will be forwarded to the Governor for his signature.

PSSSSST....
Don't forget - March is
WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

AUTOBIOGRAPHY
IN FIVE SHORT CHAPTERS
By Portia Nelson

I

I walk down the street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I fall in
I am lost...I am helpless
It isn't my fault.
It takes forever to find a way out.

II

I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I pretend I don't see it.
I fall in again.
I can't believe I am in the same place.
but, it isn't my fault.
It still takes a long time to get out.

III

I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I see it there.
I still fall in... it's a habit.
my eyes are open.
I know where I am.
It is my fault.
I get out immediately.

IV

I walk down the same street.
There is a deep hole in the sidewalk.
I walk around it.

V

I walk down another street.

THINK PURPLE ACTIVITIES:

- bulletin boards
- purple ribbons
- adopt a proclamation
- public service announcements
- watch films on equity issues / discuss
- give equity awards to employers / students
- invite guest speakers to your school
- plan a Women's History Month activity
- encourage and educate students about non-traditional careers
- sponsor a equity slogan contest
- evaluate your school's "Equity Attitude"
- develop "gender neutral" names for vocational education courses
- speak out when putdowns about females / males are made
- acknowledge your "Equity Accomplishments!"

Rebecca A. Bird
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